



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

JACK O'CONNELL
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 6, 2008

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

CALIFORNIA LONGITUDINAL PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT DATA SYSTEM PROJECT UPDATE

Across the country, states are developing longitudinal data systems. In California, we are just a year away from implementing the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). The successful implementation of CALPADS is one of my top priorities. It is only with such a system that we can better identify and address our state's dropout crisis and our pernicious achievement gap. Since January 2008, IBM has been working under contract with staff from the California Department of Education (CDE), the California School Information Services (CSIS), county offices of education, school districts, and charter schools to develop CALPADS. The purpose of this letter is to urge your leadership on activities required for success in the transition to CALPADS. Successful implementation of CALPADS depends on the hard work of those dedicated staff maintaining and submitting data for every school and district in the state, and it will require your strong support. Ongoing updates to CALPADS must occur as students enroll and exit so that the information in CALPADS is up-to-date and useful to the next school which enrolls the student.

To accomplish this ongoing work, I strongly encourage you to assess the adequacy of your local data management practices and staffing to determine how your local educational agency (LEA) will best be able to successfully transition to CALPADS. While I continue to strongly advocate for additional state funding to support these activities, the current reality is that resources will need to be redirected locally. Therefore, I urge you to ensure adequate support for your local data management infrastructure.

Attached is background on the project and a list of critical activities your staff will undertake over the next year. The importance of this work is paramount, as all recognize the importance of quality data and the consequences of misinformation that may occur if the data are inaccurate. Thank you for your commitment to good data management.

If you have any questions regarding CALPADS, please contact Keric Ashley, Director, Data Management Division, at 916-323-5007 or by e-mail at kashley@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

JACK O'CONNELL

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Attachment

California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System Project Update

Implementation Status

Since January, the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) project team, (IBM, California Department of Education [CDE], and California School Information Services [CSIS]) have held a number of regional sessions with local educational agency (LEA) representatives in Sacramento, Fresno, and Orange County to confirm CALPADS functional requirements ensuring the system will meet LEA needs. Sessions were also held with student information system (SIS) vendors and LEAs with custom student information systems. In early June, two-day regional meetings were held to solicit LEA input on the high level process designs for all major CALPADS functions. The CDE has also established a CALPADS Advisory Committee (CAC) which consists of 29 LEAs that represent the state's diversity in terms of geographic region, size, type, and SIS used. The CDE has solicited CAC input on a number of issues through face-to-face meetings, conference calls, and e-mails. The CAC has also reviewed and provided comments on project deliverables and proposed system processes. During August, a CAC subcommittee met weekly to review initial user interfaces and reports design. The entire CAC membership met in early September to provide input to draft review user interfaces and report layout design. Based on their input, IBM is entering the system development stage.

LEA Benefits

CALPADS will foster, at the state and local levels, an environment in which data is valued and used to inform decisions. LEAs that have already been submitting student level data to CSIS find that the quality of their local data has improved tremendously as has their understanding of these data. CALPADS will help turn data into information by providing LEAs access to a number of reports, including various disaggregations of data from the statewide assessments and student profiles.

LEAs have indicated the biggest benefit from CALPADS will be having immediate access to information on students transferring from other California public schools. LEAs will be able to find out, for example, whether a student has taken the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) and his/her score, or whether the student is a special education student. Such information will enable LEAs to immediately place students in the appropriate academic settings.

While the CDE recognizes that there is cost to better data in the form of increased workload to collect, maintain, validate, and submit student level data, there will be a partial workload offset by the discontinuance of a number of major collections including: California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS), County District Information Form (CDIF), Student Information Form (SIF), Professional Assignment Information Form (PAIF), Language Census (LCEN), Student Nation of Origin Report (SNOR), select pages of the Consolidated Application (ConApp), and Perkins reporting. In addition, the Pre-Identification (Pre-ID)

process for statewide assessments will become more efficient with a reduced amount of data collected on the student answer document. Finally, data collections for specific categorical programs, such as the California Partnership Academies, will be reduced.

In addition to eliminating these aggregate reports, CALPADS will provide LEAs and the state significant flexibility in responding to changes in federal and state reporting requirements, thus reducing the need for the state to request new reports from LEAs in the future. For example, should the federal government change the reporting requirements for a federal program to account for students grouped by race/ethnicity to students grouped by age, the state would not have to request additional reports from the LEAs, but would simply query CALPADS.

Key Activities and Timeframes

2008	
October	CALPADS data requirements made available to local educational agencies (LEAs)
2009	
January	CALPADS Pilot LEAs selected
April	Pilot LEAs begin User Acceptance Testing (UAT) of the system
October	All LEAs begin submitting official enrollment, exits, dropout, graduate, course enrollment, and teacher assignment data to CALPADS instead of through the current data submission processes (CSIS Annual SSID Maintenance, CSIS State Reporting, or the California Basic Educational Data System data collections)
December	New Pre-ID process for STAR
2010	
March	All LEAs report immigrant counts and English Learner status to CALPADS
September	LEAs report course completion (departmentalized classes, grades seven - twelve), student program participation, and student discipline data to CALPADS

Steps to Help Ready Your LEA for CALPADS

1. **Convene meetings between data management staff responsible for CALPADS submissions and program and administrative staff whose data will be now be submitted through CALPADS.** CALPADS submissions will require increased coordination between different divisions within your LEA. For example, certain program data that have traditionally been reported by program staff through separate data collection vehicles, such as the Consolidated Application and Perkins, will now report their data to CALPADS. The Statewide Educator Identifier (SEID) will enable LEAs to submit data to CALPADS from local human resources systems. Therefore, it is important for staff to begin to work together. CALPADS will be collecting data to meet reporting requirements for the following programs:
 - California Partnership Academies
 - California School Age Families Education (Cal-SAFE)
 - Career Technical Education
 - Specialized Secondary Programs
 - Opportunity Programs
 - No Child Left Behind Title I Part A Basic Targeted
 - No Child Left Behind Title I Part A Neglected
 - No Child Left Behind Title I Part D Juvenile Detention, At Risk, and Delinquent
 - No Child Left Behind Title I Part X Homeless
2. **Ensure that the appropriate staff is signed up on the CALPADS listserv.** The CDE sends out all important information on CALPADS implementation through this listserv. To subscribe to the CALPADS listserv, send an e-mail to subscribe-calpads-lea@mlist.cde.ca.gov.
3. **If your LEA is not participating in the CSIS-administered Best Practices (BP) Cohort, or is not on the BP Cohort waiting list, sign up now!** To sign up, visit the BP Cohort Project Web page at <http://www.csis.k12.ca.us/bp-cohort/default.asp> (Outside Source). Funding is available for all eligible LEAs.
4. **Ensure that appropriate staff attends the WebEx training on the CALPADS file formats.** The CDE has released the “file formats” for CALPADS submissions. These documents outline the data to be collected by CALPADS. The CDE, in conjunction with CSIS, will hold a number of WebEx sessions on these formats beginning in mid-October. It is essential that your staff participate in these WebEx sessions, analyze the CALPADS file formats to determine impacts to your LEA, such as the need to revise the content of student registration forms, and to modify ongoing processes so that data is locally shared to meet educational, program, administrative and support needs. The CDE will provide information on these sessions through the CALPADS listserv.

5. **Make sure that your LEA has worked with your county office of education and has downloaded the SEIDs and populated those SEIDs into your local student information and human resources systems.** It should be noted that the SEID is to be submitted on this year's CBEDS Professional Assignment Information Form.
6. **Consider becoming a CALPADS pilot LEA.** Being a pilot LEA will allow your LEA to "practice" and provide final input into the system. If your LEA is interested in becoming a pilot LEA, send an e-mail to CALPADS at CALPADS@cde.ca.gov.